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From: Ron and Jackie Patt [gorali@epix.net]
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2009 4:43 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Proposal for Outdoor Wood-fired Boilers

DEC 7 REC'D

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

In the near future there will be no excuse for wood smoke. Once again, human ingenuity and creativity has made it possible for a brighter, cleaner and healthier environment. Our wood stove and outdoor wood-fired boiler manufacturers have risen to the challenge to produce more efficient, smokeless wood stoves and furnaces.

The manufacturers have stepped up to the plate, now it is time for the wood burners to follow this example. As soon as it is economically feasible, wood burners should join the "Great American Changeout" and acquire a product with the new smokeless technology.

The federal government is encouraging wood burners to change out by offering a tax credit of 30%- up to \$1500.00. States and municipalities should be encouraging the change out.

However, everyone has a vested interest in cleaner air. Those who cannot change out immediately can produce the cleanest possible burn by following age-old, proven guidelines.

The most important guideline is burning clean, seasoned wood. Seasoning wood is a science in itself and is often ignored. Earlier generations understood and appreciated seasoned wood since they cooked as well as heated their homes with wood fires. They needed quick, hot fires which demanded seasoned wood.

The first step to achieving peak wood drying is choosing the proper site for the wood pile. Ideally-choose a sunny, breezy location with plenty of space.

All firewood should be :

Cut, split and stacked in rows at least four inches apart to facilitate air circulation;
 Covered on top only-again to facilitate air movement through the stack;
 Stacked on pallets timbers or on a dry floor.

Seasoned hardwoods produce the most heat and retain coals longer.

Oak is dense and takes two years to season.

Maple, hickory, cherry, beech and apple require one year.

Ash and ironwood as well as softwoods such as poplar, birch and soft maple will season in six months.

Choose the right size stove. A stove that is too large for a room or house will need to be dampered down too far. This wastes a precious resource and causes more air pollution.

Begin with a quick, hot start. Open the draft to maximum and start the fire with newspaper and seasoned kindling. As the kindling burns, add small pieces of firewood followed by larger pieces until the fire is bright and hot. When at home-maintain a smaller hot fire at all times..When asleep or at work-do not let the fire smolder. Damper somewhat but allow the fire to burn hot. Your house will gain more heat and air pollution will be minimized. Your fire can be returned to peak burn quickly with seasoned kindling.

Keep your chimney clean to provide a good draft and to reduce the risk of a chimney fire.

If you upgrade to the newest technology and follow proven guidelines you can burn wood without producing dangerous wood smoke. Along with every one of our rights come responsibilities and wood burning is no exception as indicated by the guidelines which do require more long range planning and work. Equally important is the fact that you do not have the right to pollute your neighbors air.

Recommendations for outdoor wood-fired boilers would be as follows:

12/4/2009

1. Encourage change out to Phase 2 outdoor wood-fired boilers.
2. Eliminate stack height requirement. With wind currents and valley downdrafts, stack height is of minimal consequence.
3. Allowed fuels:
Clean wood must be SEASONED!

I would suggest that you include my specific guidelines for seasoning wood in your proposal. Checking for seasoned wood is simple. The inspector would see large amounts of stacked wood. The wood to be used that year would have sizeable cracks in the ends, be dark in color and when hit together would emit a sharp crack instead of a dull thud. Also, if lit with a match it would continue to burn.

I want to thank the Department of Environmental Protection for addressing this serious problem. In actuality, our wood burners are unwittingly "killing us softly!" The only way they can control their smoke is to eliminate its flow from their chimneys!

Therefore:

It is vitally important that the state adopt an ordinance for indoor wood stoves as well. Municipalities and townships appear afraid to act, especially concerning indoor wood burning stoves many of which are as environmentally destructive as the outdoor stoves.

For Clean Air
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